

Members:

Sen. Harold Wheeler, Chairman
Sen. Earline Rogers
Rep. Dale Grubb, Vice-Chairman
Rep. Richard Mangus



LSA Staff:

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Authority: Legislative Council Resolution

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPACE UTILIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 3, 1998
Meeting Time: 2:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.
Senate Majority Caucus Room
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Harold Wheeler, Chairman; Rep. Dale Grubb, Vice-Chairman; Rep. Richard Mangus; Sen. Earline Rogers.

Members Absent: None.

The Chairman asked Mr. Philip Sachtleben to distribute two documents concerning (1) state entities that occupy the State House and that rent space outside the State House; and (2) all state agencies that rent space in Marion County. The documents detail pertinent information including the square footage, annual rent amounts, and lease expiration dates. The rent paid by those entities that also occupy the State House amounts to at least \$2.1 million. An additional \$7.1 million is paid by other entities in Marion County for a total rental cost of \$9.2 million.

The Chair recognized The Honorable John Baker of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Judge Baker detailed for the subcommittee the growth in the number of appellate judges and supporting staff. He noted that the courts had been renting space in the Hyatt building since 1978. This space is presently used by 6 judges, the court administrator, and some recently appointed senior judges.

Judge Baker noted that having a "bifurcated" court (split between the Hyatt and the State House) is problematic. He would hope that a new facility could be

provided that would be in close proximity to the State House. He stated that it would be the desire of the judiciary to have the Supreme Court chambers and some adjacent space remain as judicial space for ceremonial and historic purposes. The courts have submitted their square footage requirements to the Department of Administration.

Judge Baker noted, but was reluctant to discuss in detail, the critical need to improve security for judges and their staff. He added that Senator Randolph had previously spoken about the heightened security that the State House should have in part because of the vulnerability of the members of the Court.

Judge Baker stated that a few suggestions for new judicial space (refurbished train station or state museum) had been considered but were not promising. He said, however, that the judges want to help solve this space issue and would be flexible in searching for a solution.

In response to Rep. Mangus's question, the judge said that the Court of Appeals needed 64,000 square feet of space. Rep. Mangus asked whether the judiciary would have sufficient space if the General Assembly vacated the State House.

Mr. Jay McQueen, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administration explained that the DOA are in the process of completing a space study for the entire State House and thought it would be finished by Organization Day.

Senator Rogers commented on the need to begin with good projections of the needs of all occupants of any new building.

The Chairman recognized Senator Garton who outlined the five options that he sees with respect to the space problem. They include: (1) do nothing; (2) build a new Judicial Building (which was the easiest option in his opinion); (3) build a new Legislative Building (which is the best option, but which may entail a terrible public relations battle); (4) build a new Administrative Building, which would include space for the Governor's Office; and (5) add on to the State House, including new parking facilities.

Judge Baker told the committee that the judiciary was interested in a building to house only the courts, the Clerk of the Courts, and the court administrator's office. The building would not need to house the Attorney General and other offices.

Senator Wheeler noted that the rent now being paid could be used to service the debt associated with the costs of a fairly large building.

Rep. Grubb suggested that the subcommittee consider two buildings joined by a common area and serviced by suitable parking facilities. He stated that some

members of the public are intimidated when they visit the State House, and that there may be a savings on construction costs.

Rep. Mangus noted that he had served on a committee charged with solving the State House space issues in 1984. He now supports the idea of building a Legislative Building to reflect the changes in public attendance at committee meetings and other needs of the General Assembly that cannot be met if the General Assembly remains in the State House.

Rep. Buck stated that in his opinion whatever action that is taken must permit the judiciary to be housed under one roof.

Clerk of the Courts John Okeson stated that his only request would be that the Clerk's Office follow the judges. He presently operates two separate offices and a large storage facility.

The subcommittee then discussed what actions should be taken next. Sen. Rogers noted that the committee needs some ball park cost figures in order to begin prioritizing alternatives. Rep. Grubb asked the DOA to develop rough cost estimates for a new judicial building, a new legislative building, and a new dual purpose building. Mr. McQueen that the DOA would assist the subcommittee with these matters.